



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS  
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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: April 10, 2006  
Week Ending: April 9, 2006  
CWP WA-CW1506

## Rain Season Still Going Strong!

### Field Crops

Although the rain slowed down, there were still complaints that the moisture was delaying field work. Winter wheat was in fair to excellent condition overall, with plenty of moisture. The winter wheat greened up as the nitrogen level increased. Producers in drier counties were able to increase their field work and were busy planting potatoes, small grains, vegetables, dry peas and dry beans. Christmas tree producers were applying residual herbicides and fertilizer. New blueberry and raspberry plants were set out and established plants were greening up.

### Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 4% poor, 12% fair, 77% good, and 7% excellent. Spring calving and lambing was well underway and pasture growth increased rapidly with the extra moisture. Supplemental feeding continued and livestock were being moved to drier pastures.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	4.0
Last Week	4.4

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	1	72	27
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	1	18	76	5
Subsoil	0	6	84	10
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	10	25	63	2
Irrigation Water	0	0	99	1
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	12	86	0
Hay & Roughage	0	32	64	4

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2005	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	39	32	77	56
Spring Wheat Emerged	19	15	33	23
Barley Planted	28	26	46	36
Barley Emerged	11	10	18	12
Potatoes Planted	30	15	37	26
Potatoes Emerged	2	N/A	2	5
Dry Edible Beans Planted	8	N/A	8	2
Proc. Green Peas Planted	35	25	36	21
Dry Peas Planted	17	15	17	12

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	2	22	61	14
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	8	92	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

\* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Clark:** There was nice weather for the first weekend of the Woodland Tulip Festival.

**Grays Harbor:** Producers were anxiously awaiting for soil to dry out. Hybrid poplars were leafing out. Christmas tree growers applied residual herbicides and fertilizers. Growers also began to prune trees. Pasture was growing rapidly. Asian pear orchards were in full bloom.

**Mason:** There were nine inches of rain cumulative for the week. The fields were fertilized and harrowed between the raindrops and the fields were starting to firm up and dry out. There was frost on the ground Thursday morning reminding us it is still early spring. Rhubarb was starting to take off. There were more people buying plants and getting in the gardening mode.

**Pierce/S. King:** Crop conditions were starting to improve with the drying out of fields. No unusual situations to report. No reports of crop damage due to a weather event were reported.

**Skagit/San Juan/Island:** The weather was mild and dry. A lot of field work was completed. Beets and potatoes were being planted. No damage to crops was reported.

**Snohomish/King:** Field work continued, interrupted by occasional rain. Stone fruits and early apples were in bloom. Blueberries and raspberries were leafing out. Pastures were in good shape and growing well with warming temperatures.

**Thurston:** The area experienced fairly good weather with dry sunny conditions and reduced rainfall. Producers with drier soils began fieldwork. Christmas tree growers began to apply residual herbicides and fertilizer. Pasture ground was growing rapidly. Forest tree nurseries continued digging tree seedlings. Olympia Farmer's Market opened.

**Thurston (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Producers reported calving was in full swing and the calves were in good shape. The coyotes have been quite active at night. The cows have been very aggressive in protecting the calves.

**Whatcom:** New blueberry and raspberry plants were set out. Established berry plants were greening up, thanks to low temperatures remaining in the 40's. A few growers took off their first relay crop of silage.

## Central

**Benton:** We continued to get showers for the week. Water was turned on for all of the irrigation districts in Benton County. There were no reported winter losses for dry land crops or any other crop. There were some concerns about yield loss for new alfalfa and timothy hay plantings due to last months freeze.

**Franklin:** It was another "fair weather" week. Some cool, some mild, and some shower filled days. Asparagus harvest continued but presumably slower with wet cooler days. Cherry and stone fruit trees were at full or just past full bloom. Potatoes were being planted. Field work was pretty much normal this week.

**Grant:** More rain was received over the weekend. Moisture levels for dryland wheat were good to excellent. Pasture and range conditions were great.

**Kittitas:** There were spring like conditions in the valley. The forecast for the current week predicts spring weather, with high temperatures in the 50's to low 60's with a continued chance of showers.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures varied from three degrees below normal to six degrees above normal, with .35 of an inch of precipitation. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Winter wheat was in mostly good/fair/excellent condition. Spring seeding was mostly complete with an estimated 40 percent emerged.

**Adams (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The rain showers that occurred off and on throughout the week continued to benefit wheat growers.

**Asotin:** The cool wet weather continued as producers waited for the ground to dry out to be able to plant spring crops. Planting was running about two weeks behind normal. After last year's drought, most were not complaining about the wet spring weather. Winter wheat was in mostly good condition, but small for this time of year. Rangeland conditions have improved due to the moisture this spring, but growth has been slow due to cool weather.

**Lincoln:** Rains were slowing down the spring field work. The winter wheat was finding some nitrogen to help it green up.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Wet conditions continued to slow spring crop establishment. Currently only an estimated 30 percent of the spring wheat and barley crops were planted.

**Okanogan/Ferry:** Some cattlemen were running short of hay stocks and were having trouble finding hay. Therefore, they may have to turn out to pastures earlier than normal. Orchardists were still in the process of pruning. Hay growers were beginning to harrow and fertilize their fields in the lower elevation areas.

**Pend Oreille:** Temperatures had a high of 54 degrees and a low of 23 degrees with 1.25 inches of precipitation. Warm weather and rain brought pastures back to life with new green grasses. When the weather broke some harrowing was done. Livestock were fed with stored hay as pastures were still muddy and grass too short to use as pasture. Grounds were saturated with standing water in low areas. Calving was in full swing and lambing was waning.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** The area experienced another week of typical spring weather. A couple of days of sunshine mixed with a number of days of rain. Warmer temperatures had the winter wheat really growing and looking pretty good. With the warmer temperatures the weeds were really growing also. Pasture was starting to green up but growth is not there yet.

**Stevens:** The soil began to thaw. There was some flooding of pasture land due to rain on snow.

**Stevens (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Rainfall occurred several days during the past week with the weekend especially damp. Farmers began to fertilize and harrow hay fields between showers. Area streams were running at full capacity as warm rains began melting mountain snow.

**Walla Walla:** Lots of rain over the last week. Most areas received over one inch during the last week, with only a couple of days of sunshine. Crops were looking very good, however spring work was delayed due to rain.

**Whitman:** Rain, rain, rain. That sums up weather conditions on the Palouse. Normally welcomed, the extended period of rainfall was causing some concern over the lack of being able to complete spring field work.

**Whitman (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Rainfall throughout the week prevented most farmers from doing spring work. The temperature was rising slowly and pastures were turning green and starting to grow. Fields need to dry out before seeding can begin.

# Weekly Weather Statistics

## April 10, 2006

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	34	63	48	3	1	-4	0	0	0.69	0.06	4	27.03	-0.49	98	126
Everett	38	59	49	3	0	-7	0	0	0.57	-0.13	5	26.07	-1.46	95	128
Hoquiam	36	66	49	2	8	1	0	0	0.17	-1.04	4	63.01	6.09	111	146
Kelso	35	70	52	5	17	10	0	0	0.94	0.06	3	36.03	-1.16	97	122
Olympia	32	65	50	4	7	4	0	0	0.33	-0.55	4	46.72	4.11	110	127
Sea-Tac	38	62	50	4	10	3	0	0	0.52	-0.10	4	31.05	0.48	102	122
Shelton	29	65	48	1	1	-6	0	0	0.45	-0.68	6	63.50	7.54	113	133
Tacoma	34	64	48	1	1	-6	0	0	0.32	-0.40	4	34.46	1.99	106	115
Vancouver	35	68	53	6	22	15	0	0	0.35	-0.36	3	36.19	2.75	108	121
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	33	64	49	5	3	-3	0	0	0.11	-0.03	3	9.37	2.56	138	67
Stampede Pass	32	52	41	10	0	0	0	0	0.28	-1.04	5	60.51	-7.22	89	131
Wenatchee	39	63	50	3	12	-1	0	0	0.27	0.13	3	5.26	-0.84	86	49
Yakima AP	31	66	49	3	6	-3	0	0	0.34	0.20	2	8.12	2.01	133	59
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	30	61	48	5	1	-6	0	0	0.65	0.30	5	14.37	0.00	100	75
Deer Park	26	61	47	4	1	-4	0	0	0.97	0.62	5	22.26	9.18	170	96
Spokane AP	33	58	47	4	0	-7	0	0	0.64	0.36	5	14.44	2.83	124	88
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	33	64	50	2	9	-3	0	0	0.61	0.47	3	8.06	2.67	150	59
Moses Lake	31	64	49	1	3	-9	0	0	0.97	0.83	6	9.37	3.98	174	69
Quincy	32	64	49	2	8	-3	0	0	0.40	0.26	4	9.61	3.77	165	71
Ritzville	32	61	46	2	0	-7	0	0	0.66	0.45	4	12.35	4.02	148	79
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	34	66	50	-2	8	-16	0	0	0.37	0.23	3	4.35	-0.69	86	37
Pasco	33	67	51	-1	10	-12	0	0	0.24	0.10	4	7.14	1.44	125	60
Pullman	37	61	47	5	1	-3	0	0	1.08	0.69	5	8.85	-6.56	57	81
Whitman Miss.	33	63	49	-1	5	-9	0	0	1.46	1.18	6	13.25	3.38	134	91
<b>ID PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D'A' AP	32	59	46	2	0	-5	0	0	0.20	-0.22	2	8.17	-10.36	44	68
Lewiston ID	37	67	52	5	20	6	0	0	0.66	0.43	4	7.18	-0.40	95	65

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2005

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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